



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

HOMELAND SECURITY RETURNS FUGITIVE CHILD MOLESTER TO BELGIUM

Cooperation Between Belgian Authorities and Two DHS Agencies Nabs International Fugitive

BUFFALO, N.Y. – A Belgian man wanted by his government for multiple counts of pedophilia and narcotics violations was captured in upstate New York and returned to Brussels to serve a lengthy criminal sentence.

On January 3rd, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention and Removal Officers from Buffalo escorted Jean Felipe Ferier back to Belgium where he was taken into custody by Belgian police. Ferier fled Belgium November 27, 2005, the day before he was to be sentenced for multiple pedophilia charges and narcotics charges. According to Belgian authorities, Ferier was sentenced to six years in absentia.

Ferier entered the United States at JFK Airport in New York and was admitted under the visa waiver program. When he was admitted, U.S. authorities had no records indicating he was wanted in Belgium and that he was a fugitive from justice. A Belgian arrest warrant was issued the day after Ferier was admitted to the country.

Belgian police suspected that Ferier fled to the United States and contacted U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials. CBP determined that Ferier had traveled inside the U.S. and had made contact with one of his former victims living in the country as an exchange visitor. CBP found out that Ferier had boarded an Amtrak train at Penn Station in New York and was bound for Montreal, Canada.

Patrol Agents from the United States Border Patrol's Swanton Sector were able to take Ferier into custody when the train stopped at the station in Westport, N.Y. Ferier's former victim was traveling with him on the train.

The fugitive was turned over to the ICE Office of Detention and Removal in Buffalo. Detention officers worked closely with the Belgian Consulate to make arrangements to return him to Belgium to begin his six-year prison term.

The case highlights outstanding investigative work and close cooperation between the Belgian government and the Department of Homeland Security. As a result a dangerous child molester who became a fugitive was returned to his home country to pay for his crimes.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.